

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

JOSEPH MELVIN COCHRAN,

Plaintiff,

-against-

JOHNATHAN SMOKE, Producer & Manager  
of Pop Smoke,

Defendant.

21-CV-7470 (LTS)

ORDER DIRECTING PRISONER  
AUTHORIZATION

LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN, Chief United States District Judge:

Plaintiff, who is currently detained at Bellevue Hospital Prison Ward, brings this action *pro se*.<sup>1</sup> To proceed with a civil action in this Court, a prisoner must either pay \$402.00 in fees – a \$350.00 filing fee plus a \$52.00 administrative fee – or, to request permission to proceed without prepayment of fees, submit a signed IFP application and a prisoner authorization. *See* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1914, 1915.

If the Court grants a prisoner’s IFP application, the Prison Litigation Reform Act requires the Court to collect the \$350.00 filing fee in installments deducted from the prisoner’s account. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). A prisoner seeking to proceed in this Court without prepayment of fees must therefore also authorize the Court to withdraw these payments from his account by filing a “prisoner authorization,” which directs the facility where the prisoner is incarcerated to deduct the \$350.00 filing fee<sup>2</sup> from the prisoner’s account in installments and to send to this

---

<sup>1</sup> Plaintiff states that he is at Bellevue Hospital as of the time that he submitted the complaint. According to the New York City Department of Correction online prisoner locator, Plaintiff is currently at the Anna M. Kross Center. The Court will therefore send the order to both addresses.

<sup>2</sup> The \$52.00 administrative fee for filing a civil action does not apply to persons granted IFP status under 28 U.S.C. § 1915.

Court certified copies of the prisoner's account statements for the past six months. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(2), (b).

Plaintiff submitted an IFP application but did not submit a prisoner authorization. Within thirty days of the date of this order, Plaintiff must either pay the \$402.00 in fees or complete and submit the attached prisoner authorization. If Plaintiff submits the prisoner authorization, it should be labeled with docket number 21-CV-7470 (LTS).<sup>3</sup>

The Clerk of Court is directed to mail a copy of this order to Plaintiff at Bellevue Hospital Prison Ward and at the Anna M. Kross Center and to note service on the docket. No summons shall issue at this time. If Plaintiff fails to comply with this order within the time allowed, the action will be dismissed without prejudice.

The Court certifies under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(3) that any appeal from this order would not be taken in good faith, and therefore *in forma pauperis* status is denied for the purpose of an appeal. *Cf. Coppedge v. United States*, 369 U.S. 438, 444–45 (1962) (holding that appellant demonstrates good faith when seeking review of a nonfrivolous issue).

SO ORDERED.

Dated: September 7, 2021  
New York, New York

/s/ Laura Taylor Swain

---

LAURA TAYLOR SWAIN  
Chief United States District Judge

---

<sup>3</sup> Plaintiff is cautioned that if a prisoner files an action that is dismissed as frivolous, malicious, or for failing to state a claim, the dismissal is a “strike” under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(g). A prisoner who receives three “strikes” cannot file actions *in forma pauperis* as a prisoner, unless he is under imminent danger of serious physical injury, and must pay the filing fee at the time of filing any new action.